

PN980 MARINE CORPS nomination of Robert M. Barclay, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 5, 2017.

IN THE NAVY

PN968 NAVY nomination of Jason A. Tews, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 5, 2017.

PN969 NAVY nomination of Christopher P. Carroll, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 5, 2017.

PN970 NAVY nominations (2) beginning GABRIEL PEREZ, and ending ERIC R. TRUEMPER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 5, 2017.

PN971 NAVY nominations (91) beginning ANTON A. ADAM, and ending YING P. ZHONG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 5, 2017.

PN972 NAVY nominations (33) beginning ADRIENNE T. BENTON, and ending AARON R. WESSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 5, 2017.

PN973 NAVY nominations (55) beginning SALAHHUDIN A. ADENKHALIF, and ending VICTOR T. F. WONG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 5, 2017.

PN974 NAVY nominations (107) beginning SANTIAGO A. ABADAM, II, and ending JAIME M. YORK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 5, 2017.

PN975 NAVY nominations (49) beginning SARAH A. AGUERO, and ending DENNIS E. WESTMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 5, 2017.

PN976 NAVY nominations (123) beginning JOKO A. ABUBAKAR, and ending YUI Y. WONG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 5, 2017.

PN977 NAVY nominations (77) beginning BROOKE T. AHLSTROM, and ending MARK C. WARNER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 5, 2017.

PN978 NAVY nominations (212) beginning MIGUEL M. ALAMPAY, and ending ZACHARY A. ZANFES, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 5, 2017.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I was unavoidably absent for rollcall vote No. 205, on the nomination of Makan Delrahim, of California, to be an Assistant Attorney General. Had I been present, I would have voted nay.

Mr. President, I was unavoidably absent for rollcall vote No. 206, the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Ralph Erickson, of North Dakota, to be a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

Mr. President, I was unavoidably absent for rollcall vote No. 207, on the nomination of Ralph Erickson, of North Dakota, to be a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

Mr. President, I was unavoidably absent for rollcall vote No. 208, the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Ajit Varadaraj Pai, of Kansas, to be a member of the Federal Communications Commission. Had I been present, I would have voted nay. •

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, yesterday, September 27, 2017, I was in Indiana with the President of the United States and was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted in support of Mr. Heath Tarbert's nomination to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury and in support of Mr. Makan Delrahim's nomination to be an Assistant Attorney General.

CONFIRMATION OF MAKAN DELRAHIM

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, yesterday, the Senate confirmed the nomination of Makan Delrahim to be Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Department of Justice's Antitrust Division. While I voted in favor of that nomination, I would like to explain my expectations for Mr. Delrahim and express my deep concerns about the Trump administration's approach to antitrust policy, such as it is, as he assumes that important position.

As a former antitrust lawyer myself, I know these are complex issues that benefit from a rigorous and non-political assessment, which is best done by the talented career professionals at the Department of Justice, but I am also concerned that, in what has become a much politicized Department of Justice, such an independent review may not be respected and the recommendations of career lawyers and economists can be overridden.

At every turn, the Trump administration has catered to the interests of big business over those of the American consumer, and I am very concerned about what their approach to antitrust enforcement will be. In the past, the President has made remarks about supporting or opposing particular mergers that are deeply troubling and highly political. I am particularly concerned about this haphazard approach from the President because there are a number of major proposed and rumored mergers that will be coming before the Antitrust Division in the coming months and years, par-

ticularly in the telecommunications industry, and they will require very careful and professional review independent of politics. I am also deeply concerned about the possibility that this administration will use antitrust laws as a weapon against companies it perceives as somehow unfair to it.

For example, Sinclair Broadcast Group's proposed merger with the Tribune Media Company would give Sinclair control of stations in 42 cities, expanding its reach to a total of 108 communities. In the past, Sinclair has drawn criticism for programming that benefitted then Republican Presidential candidates Donald Trump and George W. Bush. Given reports of the President's continued attacks on the press, including reports of his threats to jail journalists, it is imperative that consumers retain access to a diversity of news sources. The Department of Justice, through its Antitrust Division, must ensure that their review of this merger is free of political considerations.

However, despite those concerns, I believe Mr. Delrahim has the qualifications necessary to lead the Antitrust Division, which does the important work of preventing unlawful anti-competitive conduct and upholding our Nation's antitrust laws. Mr. Delrahim has served as a deputy assistant attorney general in the division he would now lead, as well as chief counsel and staff director for the Judiciary Committee under then-Chairman HATCH, and as an attorney in private practice working on complicated antitrust cases. He has a remarkable personal story and has received the support of many of his peers, both Democrats and Republicans.

During his nomination hearing on May 10, Mr. Delrahim promised to protect competitive markets and consumers, vigorously enforce the antitrust laws, and to cooperate with the Judiciary Committee in a bipartisan manner. I will hold him to these promises. Importantly, he told the committee that he would follow the law and his ethical responsibilities to recuse himself in cases involving his former clients. I support his nomination with the expectation that he will honor these commitments.

Mr. Delrahim also made a number of assurances in response to written questions for the record that I submitted after his hearing, questions that were based on my concerns about the anti-competitive impact of corporate mergers, as well as about actions taken by President Trump.

In response to my question about President Trump holding private meetings with the CEO of AT&T, which is planning on merging with Time Warner, and the CEOs of Bayer and Monsanto, which are planning on merging, Mr. Delrahim promised that he would conduct antitrust investigations "in a fair, professional, and impartial manner, without regard to political considerations." He promised to comply with